Chapter 8

Rural livelihoods

I Multiple choice questions.

1. Farming

2. Get the wages less than the minimum wages fixed by the government.

3. Small farmers

4. Monsoon season

5. Village money lenders or traders.

II Very short answer type questions.

1. Farming is the main economic activity in the rural areas.

2. The agricultural labourers came from either landless families or families cultivating small plots of land.

3. Those farmers who have own more than 2 hectares of land are called medium farmers.

4. The farmers who have own a large piece of land that is more than 10 hectares of land are called large or big farmers.

5. The landless women agricultural labourers are the poorest among the people who depend on farming.

III Short answer type questions.

1. Those who do not have their own land and have to work on other people's farms to earn their livelihoods, are known as landless agricultural labourers.

2. Small farmers do not have savings. They have to borrow money for farming. We generally borrow from the large farmers, village money lenders or the traders.

3. In India there are 20% farmers who have farms of more than 2 hectares. They cultivate 64% of the total cultivated area. On the other hand, 80% of the total farmers have farms of less than 2 hectares. These farmers cultivate only 36% of the total cultivated area.

4. During the monsoon season fishermen do not catch fish because this is the season when the fish breed. During these months, they survive by borrowing from the traders. For this, they are bound to sell the fish to traders at lower rates than the market price.

5. Generally, farmers are illiterate, unorganised, ignorant so they are not aware of Governmen'ts and NGO's policies and borrow from traders who they know. they have to sell major parts of their produce to traders at lower price to pay their loan.

IV long answer type questions.

1. There are different kind of people who depend on farming they are as follows:-

1. Landless agricultural labourers

2. Small farmers

3. Medium and large farmers

The poorest among the people who depend on farming are the landless women agricultural labourers because:-

1. Apart from working on the land they have to do on household works.

2. They are generally uneducated, unskilled and untrained. So they are employed in low paid jobs.

3. They cannot do as much physical work as men can do. So they are forced to do low paid jobs.

2. Small farmers arrange the capital from the traders of large farmers of their area by borrowing loan from them for their tools, seeds etc.

3. People in rural areas are engaged in a variety of non farming activities. The main activities are making baskets, utensils, pots, bricks, Bullock carts, etc.

Some people are engaged in dairy, small scale manufacturing of toys, shoes, readymade garments etc.

Some people provide services like blacksmith, washerman, weavers, trailers, barbers, cycle repair mechanics, teachers, doctors, nurses and so on.

4. No, poor rural labourers often do not have access to good medical facilities, good schools and other resources.

1. The difference between the life situations of agricultural labourers and large farmers is one of inequality. This is not a fair situation.

2. The government should take initiative in this regard. The agricultural labourers do not find regular work. So, the government should strictly implement the national rural employment guarantee act 2005.

3. The government should provide them loans at low rate of interest to help them start some petty business so that they could on some additional income.

4. Farm labourers are generally illiterate, ignorant and unorganised. The government and the NGOs must make them aware of the various economic opportunities.

5. The government should take especially when farmers get into Dept. It can help in the following ways:-

1. The government should provide them loans at cheap rate of interest.

2. The government should honestly implement the crop insurance scheme.

3. It should bring some legislations to curb the unfair behaviour of the village money lenders for traders so that they can not change a very high interest and impose tough conditions.

4. it should instruct the banks to give small farmers some special relaxation in providing documentation.

5. In the case of a crop failure, a part of the loan should be waived off.

6. The government should make the small farmers aware about the benefits of modern farming techniques.

V. True or false

1. True

2. False

3. False

4. True

5. True